

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 L-02 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01

SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 SS-15 NSC-05 /128 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2437

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UNCLAS GENEVA 2986

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD WORKING PARTY ON PROGRAM BUDGET

REF: GENEVA 2899; GENEVA 2900

1. WORKING PARTY ON UNCTAD PROGRAM BUDGET CONCLUDED ITS WORK ON APRIL 25 WITH ADOPTION OF LENGTHY REPORT LARGELY REFLECTING U.S. AND OTHER GROUP B QUESTIONS AND CRITICISMS, AND SECRETARIAT AND LDC REACTIONS TO THEM.

2. WHILE OTHER GROUP B DELEGATIONS ON WORKING PARTY AWARE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY POSITIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON UN PROGRAMS, U.S. DELEGATION DOMINATED THE FLOOR DURING DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMS. ONLY OTHER GROUP B DEL TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY WAS FRG, WHICH INCLUDED SPECIALIST FROM CAPITAL. DESPITE LATE RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS, U.S. DEL ABLE TO DEVELOP MANY POINTS OF INQUIRY ON EACH PROGRAM AREA.

3. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FIELDING DELEGATIONS ALMOST COMPLETELY UNFAMILIAR WITH ISSUES ON WORKING PARTY AGENDA. INDIAN DEL MOST VOCAL AMONG THEM AND DEVOTED

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HIMSELF LARGELY TO DEFENDING EACH AND ALL PROPOSED

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ON GROUNDS OF IMPORTANCE OF UNCTAD'S WORK.

4. SOVIET UNION ECHOED GROUP B IN CALLING FOR STABILIZATION OF THE LEVEL OF THE BUDGET THROUGH REALLOCATING RESOURCES, IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, AND ELIMINATING NON ESSENTIAL COSTS. HE REFRAINED FROM COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM AREAS EXCEPT FOR EE'S PET PROJECT "TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." CHINESE PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO ATTACK ON UNCTAD WORK IN FIELD OF DISARMMENT (WHICH IS NEGIGIBLE), ACCOMPANIED BY USUAL DIATRIBE AGAINST SUPER POWERS.

5. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT EVIDENTLY HAD LITTLE INTENTION OF CONSIDER WORKING PARTY AS SERIOUS EFFORT AT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GOVERNMENTS. NOTABLE FOR THEIR ABSENCE WERE SECRETARY GNERAL COREA, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY DIVISION CHIEF PATEL, AND CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION GROBY. CERTAIN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS STOOD OUT FOR THEIR APPARENT GRASP OF ISSUES AND FRANKNESS: ARSENIS, FINANCE; CHIDZERO, COMMODITIES; AND KRISHNAMURTI, MANUFACTURES. OTHER SECRETARIAT PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING DEPSECEN ROSSEN, WERE DEFENSIVE AND FREQUENTLY NON-RESPONSIVE.

6. FINAL REPORT CONTAINS MANY POTENTIAL USEFUL POINTS FOR FURTHER INQUIRY BY ACABQ AND FIFTH COMMITTEE. IN ADDITION TO PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY GROUP B (GENEVA 2899) FOLLOWING ARE ALSO NOTABLE:

(A) IN SEVERAL CASES ADDTION OF NEW POSTS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO RELEASE EXISTING STAFF FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES, PRODUCING NET EFFECT OF EXPANDING PROGRAMS FOR WHICH NEW POSTS NOT REQUESTED.

(B) SECRETARY GENERAL CRITICIZED FOR NOT RAISING WITH GOVERNMENTS AT EARLIER DATE PROPOSAL FOR MAJOR INCREASE OF STAFF OF HIS OWN OFFICE.

(C) TWO NEW POSTS ARE REQUESTED FOR A PROGRAM ACTIVITY (IMPROVED COMMODITY TRADE INFO) WITH REGARD TO WHICH AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR RELIANCE ON EXISTING RESOURCES.

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7. THE GROUP OF 77 GAVE THEIR CLOSING COMMENTS AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP. THE REMARKS, PREPARED AS SPECIFIC REACTION TO THE GROUP B STATEMENT, ACCEPTED THE GROUP B CALL FOR IMPROVED PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRAM BUDGET, STATING THEY WERE PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN THE SUGGESTION FOR PRIOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION PROVIDED THIS DID NOT INHIBIT UNCTAD

SYG'S RIGHT TO MAKE OWN PROPOSALS FOR USE OF UNCTAD RESOURCES. THE GROUP 77 BELIEVED, AFTER HEARING THE ORAL PRESENTATIONS, THAT THE SYG HAD SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR EACH ACTIVITY. REGARDING GROUP B CALL FOR BETTER INFORMATION ON THE DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN UNCTAD AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE U.N. SYSTEM, GROUP 77 STATED THAT SUCH COORDINATION WAS MORE THE FUNCTION OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES THAN THE SECRETARIAT OF A SINGLE ORGANIZATION SINCE THE SYG ONLY DOING WHAT IT HAD BEEN ASKED TO DO, AND COMPLIMENTED THE SYG ON REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN COMPLEMENTING WITHOUT OVERLAPPING ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS. THE LDC GROUP FOUND NO FAULT WITH USE OF REGULAR STAFF TO BACKSTOP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. IT REJECTED ANY CONCEPT OF IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM OF PRIORTIES THROUGH TEDEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES - PRIORTIES MUST BE SEEN IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ONLY. IN CONCLUDING, THE GROUP OF 77 WELCOME GROUP B'S STATEMENT THAT IT ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO UNCTAD'S OWRK IN SOLVING SERIOUS INTER-NATIONAL ISSUE, BUT MISINTERPRETED GROUP B'S COMMENT ON THE GROWTH OF UNCTAD'S BUDGET MISSING THE POINT THAT SUCH GROWTH MUST BE RELARIVE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL ACTIVITIES OF THE UN.

8. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS MEETING WILL LEAD TO MAJOR REVISION OF PROGRAM BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM DOCUMENTS, BUT IT SHOULD HAVE SALUTARY EFFECT ON THE SECRETARIAT BOTH WITH REGARD TO UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT VIEWS AND IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION ON PROGRAMMING QUESTIONS. LASTLY, WE NOTE GLIMERRING HOPE THAT BY END OF WEEK LDC DELEGATIONS HAD THEMSELVES BEGUN TO SEE THAT CRITICISMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY MIGHT HAVE SOME MERIT

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AND AFFECT THEIR INTERESTS. DALE

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